of the Devaswoms also criticised the management of these institutions by Government. Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai B. A., B. L., a non-official member of the Devaswom Separation Committee, also gave expression to this opinion in his dissenting minute on the Committee's Report. The time had come for effecting a change in the present administration of the Devaswoms. The organisation of a separate Department as recommended by the Devaswom Separation Committee would not serve the purpose. The Devaswoms should be allowed to be administered by the members of the communities concerned. The landed properties of these institutions should be restored, the funds due to them should also be handed over together with the *Nadavaravus*, and they should be managed solely by popular councils under the supervision and control of Government. The provisions in the Penal Code regarding the defilement of places of public worship should be removed and Hindus of all classes and denominations should be allowed admission to the temples.

The Member then calculated the income to which the Devaswoms would be legitimately entitled annually and fixed it at Rs. 16,93,144 excluding offerings, the revenues of the temples assumed after the time of Col. Munro, the income from *cherikkal* lands, etc.

Dewan's reply.—In view of the statement contained in my address, I do not propose to make any reply in regard to this subject.

129. Removal of restrictions in the matter of opening places of public worship to all classes.

Mr. Mathen Chacko (Member, Trading Classes, Changanachery) remarked that in no other country was there a law enjoining the people to obtain the permission of Government before opening a place of public worship. The Proclamation dated the 13th Vrischikam 1074 and Section 182 of the Penal Code formed the obstacles to the free opening of places of public worship in the State. The first enactment which curtailed the rights of citizens in the matter of putting up religious institutions was the Proclamation of 1004. This was repealed by the later Proclamation of 1074. The condition of Travancore in 1004 perhaps necessitated such interference in religious matters, but at the present time the Proclamation of 1074 was the solitary instance of a law in the whole world by which the rights of the people to put up their own places of worship were curtailed.

The Member also stated that column 5 in the form of the application appended to the Proclamation which required that the names of processions and other places of worship situated within half a mile should be enumerated was responsible for the refusal of most of the applications. It also gave room for racial animosities.

In the circumstances, the Member prayed that either the Proclamation of 1074 be wholly repealed or that the fifth column in the form of application deleted. If neither of these was possible, Government should at least insert half a furlong or one eighth in the place of half a mile in the fifth column.

Mr. V. J. Joseph B. A., B. L. (Member, Nominated) said that he was in complete agreement with the previous Member in the matter of removing all restrictions now in force with regard to the erection of places of public worship and requested that the existing law enjoining upon all persons to obtain the sanction of Government before opening a place of public worship be abrogated as early as possible. The fifth column in the schedule attached to the Proclamation of 1074 required the enumeratation of all other places of public worship situated within half a mile of the site chosen by the applicant. This provision should be deleted.

Dewan's reply.—You want an amendment of the existing law apparently. It seems to me that the proper place for getting the laws of the land amended is the Legislative Council. The other matters referred to will be dealt with in due course. They do not admit of an immediate reply.

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